

protests against the Association's trying to force the trades-union idea down the throats of the medical profession. That is all pure buncombe, and the *Examiner* knows it. The Association does not force anything upon the profession, or any portion of it. When the Association does anything, it is because the demand has come up to the association through the county or state organizations. So with this fee question; a number of county and state organizations sent memorials to the House of Delegates at the Boston meeting, asking the Association to take some action; and the Association acted most conservatively by appointing a committee to confer with the insurance companies and try to adjust the matter. It is the county societies that are agitating the question, and it is eminently right that they should do so. Who ever said that the fundamental idea of the trades-union was wrong? Who is forcing organization upon the medical profession? It is not being forced at all; medical men are coming to their senses and realizing that co-operation is better than conflict, that is all. Stick to your demands for a minimum fee of \$5.00, and do not make any examinations for a less fee; you will win out, if you will have a little patience.

The JOURNAL has received the following most astonishing clipping from the *American Journal of Clinical Medicine*:

ASTONISHING STATEMENTS

"We note that many California physicians are booked to leave that state and settle elsewhere; and the appeal is made in their behalf for the minimizing of difficulties, such as State Board examinations. Very good. Even though we might have some plaint as to the difficulties thrown in the way of reputable practitioners who, driven from other states by the illness of members of their families, sought to support them by practice and were unmercifully turned down by California, whose Board frankly admitted that it sought rather to protect its own physicians against competition than the people against incompetents. In times of such calamity we forget our grievances and only think of our brethren's dire needs—hoping they may take the lesson home and be merciful in turn."

Will some kind person please wake us up? Who made any appeal on behalf of the physicians of this state, to other states, asking that laws be ignored and that boards of examiners violate their oaths? Did any such appeal come from the medical profession as represented by the State Society? Did it come from our Board of Examiners? Did it come from or through any individual authorized in any way to speak for the medical profession of this state? True, individuals there may have been who left the state and made this request; but individuals have been known to ask for the moon under the misapprehension that it was a lovely chunk of green cheese. Furthermore, when did our Board of Examiners, or any member of it, ever make the most remarkable statement that "It sought rather to pro-

tect its own physicians against competition than the people against incompetents." If such a thing were true, it would demand the immediate retirement of the members of the board, or the repeal of the law. To print such an unqualifiedly untrue paragraph is doing our board of examiners and the physicians of our state, the rankest sort of injustice, and an apology is certainly in order.

The secretary of the State Society desires the JOURNAL to extend to each and every County Society secretary, his thanks, in

TO COUNTY SECRETARIES

advance, for their united assistance in reassembling the records of the State Society. It will be a difficult task, and it will throw more work upon the shoulders of the County Society Secretaries—gentlemen whose earnest work for the medical profession is seldom recognized. One of the State Association Journals prints at the head of the section devoted to the doings of component societies, the phrase—"as the secretary, so is the society." And it is quite true. Fortunately, pretty nearly all of our County Secretaries are good, live, energetic men, taking a deep interest in their societies and doing good, though too often gratuitous and thankless work. It is indeed unfortunate that more work should be placed upon their shoulders, but it cannot be helped. For a long time to come, questions of identity will arise. "Is this the same Dr. Smith who used to be in San Francisco?" "Is this the Dr. Jones who was reported to have moved to Los Angeles?" "Does this Dr. Brown, who is reported as living in San Diego, hold membership in Placer County Society?" These, and hundreds of similar questions will constantly arise, and with all our original records gone, there is no way of answering most of them without going to the County Secretary for help and enlightenment. Some of these queries may seem very foolish to you, because you do not understand just why they are asked, nor what it means to have every memorandum and scrap of record which you possessed, wiped out. So, gentlemen and friends all, the Secretary will ask you please to answer any letters which he may write you as speedily as possible, and with patience. Even if some of his queries seem stupid to you, bear with his stupidity, answer his question, and earn his undying gratitude. As soon as our supplies and office furniture are received, record cards will be sent out, and each County Society Secretary is urged to exert his personal influence with the members of his Society to get them to fill out the cards and return them as promptly as possible.

Some months ago, when the legislatures of several states were in session and when they were, most of them, struggling with

AMUSING SITUATION

"patent medicine" bills which simply required, "Let the label tell," the subsidized press of the land was in a terrible state of mind. In "subsidized press" we wish to specifically include most of the drug journals (with the notable exception of the

high class *Druggists' Circular*, of New York) and a very large number of the little "medical" (?) journals. It was preposterous to think, said they, that any legislature would pass a law requiring the amount of alcohol or narcotic drug contained in the nostrum to be stated on the label! The so-called formula bills were merely traps devised by the American Medical Association to steal the secret of the high-minded, honest and intellectual nostrum manufacturer. The Proprietary Association of America is said to have spent untold sums in fighting these bills and in extending its subsidization process. It sent circulars to publications of all sorts and kinds all over the country, "roasting" the American Medical Association, the medical profession in general, and reformers in particular. And then, lo and behold! the Congress of the United States passed a bill at least as good as any which had been introduced into any state legislature, and secures for the whole country the desired blessing, "Let the label tell!" Was ever anything quite so funny? The subsidized journals hardly yet know what to say. *N. A. R. D. Notes*, the organ representative of the purely commercial side of the drug business, a publication which used to think "Peruna" a really valuable medicine, even before the maker put enough of something into it to take it out of the simple "booze" class, merely prints the bill and tells pharmacists that its provisions do not apply to preparations put up by themselves and not intended for interstate traffic! The "medical" (?) journals have not yet received their instructions, and so are silent. The drug journals, most of them, merely print the law, in whole or in part, and let it go at that. What can they say? What is there to say? They cannot very well attack the entire Congress, individually and collectively. To be sure, they can and do continue to try and stir up trouble for the American Medical Association, but their efforts in that direction are only adding strength to the Association. It is truly an excruciatingly funny situation.

To the San Francisco County Medical Society is presented the opportunity to distinguish itself in the history of our state. The rebuilding of the beautiful city by the Golden Gate will present problems in sanitation almost without number, and the activities of a good live committee of the County Society might well be expended, in an advisory capacity, to the mayor and the board of supervisors. Indeed, such a committee would not have to wait for actual building operations, for in the administration of the refugee camps, in the direction of future activity on the part of the relief corporation, in officially and publicly calling attention to reported present abuses and insanitary conditions, there lies much work. We understand that the County Society is managed by a Board of Directors, and surely it would not be a hard task for such a body of energetic physicians to divide itself into proper committees, take up the various phases of the problems presented, report to the general board, and then issue, for-

mally and officially, its pronouncements. Unquestionably, the local papers would be glad to co-operate in such an undertaking and give publicity to the official statements of the Society. No medical organization in our country has a better opportunity to secure to itself recognition at the hands of its citizens, or to establish for itself that place in the affairs of municipalities which our medical societies should hold. The *JOURNAL* sincerely trusts that the San Francisco County Medical Society may be heard from in this connection, and that its work may bring great credit upon our professional brethren in the stricken city.

When Amos Squash sees that in the local *Argus* which displeases him mightily, he shows his displeasure with the editor in a most cruel and unkind fashion; he stops his subscription to the paper. To his mind, such a dire calamity should immediately be followed by the bankruptcy and cessation of the paper, or else a change in editorial policy to meet his views. The editor is supposed to writhe in painful despair, and to crawl upon his knees in self-abnegation. But does he? So far as we can learn, this much-to-be-desired result is rather rare. As a rule the offending publication continues silently to live; sometimes it takes jocose cognizance of Mr. Squash's withdrawal of patronage. A kind friend, "back East," wrote to the *JOURNAL* some time ago, calling our attention to an editorial attack upon the American Medical Association which was reported to have appeared in a publication known as the "*Medical Record*." Now, for those who do not know about it, we will state that the "*Record*" is a weekly publication issued for the purpose of making money for its owner, and incidentally intended for the perusal of medical men. Editorially, it does not know that it publishes such things as advertising pages, but actually it makes money by printing the advertisements of a choice collection of nostrums. Latterly, it seems to have fallen into the ranks of the nasty little journals, and has been saying many foolish things about the American Medical Association. Presumably, this is because the work of the Association makes it increasingly difficult for the *Record* to continue the policy of editorial ignorance of advertised nostrums, and because it is showing to intelligent medical men the real inwardness of many of the nostrum frauds so generally advertised in medical (?) journals. The *Record* was one of our exchanges, and before that time even, it was sent gratuitously to the secretary of the State Society. We emphasize the *was*, because when search was made through the accumulated journals for the particular number of the *Record* desired, it was found that there were on hand no copies of that estimable publication. We were making up our mailing list, so we wrote to the *Record* asking whether it desired to continue the exchange of publications with your *JOURNAL*. To our polite query came the heart-breaking reply which follows:

"We have your letter of July 9th, inquiring about exchange copy of the *Medical Record*. In